# Vocational Rehabilitation Services Manual C-200: Technology Services

Revised June 29, 2020

## C-204: Vehicle Modification Services

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### C-204-2: Purchasing a Vehicle for Modification or a Modified Vehicle

Assisting with the purchase of a vehicle for modification or a vehicle that has already been modified is considered only after all of the following conditions are met:

* every other transportation option has been explored;
* the provision of an accessible vehicle is the most cost-efficient and appropriate approach for the customer; and
* when it is necessary for the customer to participate in other planned services, such as vocational training and job-related services, or for employment.

The primary objective of vehicle purchasing assistance is to defray initial costs that the customer must pay to take possession of the vehicle to be modified, such as:

* down payment;
* registration fees; and
* initial insurance.

VR does not purchase vehicles outright for customers.

#### Criteria for Assistance

Consider assisting with a vehicle purchase only when all the following conditions are met:

* Because of the disability, the customer requires a modified vehicle, and accessible transportation is not otherwise available within the same time frame under which the modification would be available.
* No comparable services or benefits are available to meet the customer's transportation needs.
* Relocation to an area with accessible transportation is not feasible.
* The customer has enough income, or the planned employment goal will result in enough income, to cover future payments, insurance premiums, gasoline, and routine maintenance costs.

The justification for the purchase of any vehicle purchase assistance or modifications must be documented in a case note. All vehicle modifications must be included as a planned service in the customer's IPE.

When considering a vehicle modification for a student with a disability, specific stipulations must be met. Staff must forward relevant case information to the state office transition team for review via the Pre-ETS mailbox (VR.Pre-ETS@twc.state.tx.us) before including the vehicle modification on the IPE. More information can be found in VRSM C-1305-6.

Vehicle modifications can range from under $1,000 for simple hand controls to many thousands of dollars for van conversions with complex driving systems. Deciding that vehicle modification is reasonable and necessary requires the VR counselor to carefully consider numerous factors, including at least the following, and document all considerations in the customer's case notes:

#### Available Transportation Alternatives

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